Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of using a server computer for designing paint, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring color numerical information of a designated color from a client computer connected to the server computer;

determining ingredients of the paint based on the acquired color numerical information and paint ingredient information thereby to form an ingredient-determined paint formula;

predicting performances of the ingredient-determined paint formula based on paint performance prediction information of the determined ingredients, the paint performance prediction information obtained through previous experience; [[and]]

verifying the predicted performances of the ingredient-determined paint formula; and

outputting the ingrediaent-determined paint formula,

wherein at least one of painting workability, coating film performance, and paint performance is predicted as the performance of the ingredient-determined paint formula.

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of converting color information corresponding to a color into the color numerical information.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the client computer has a three dimensional color display unit through which the designated color is input.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ingredients of the paint are determined by computer color matching.

5. (cancelled)

6. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the color numerical information acquired from the client computer is one of a multi angle spectral reflection factor and a various angle spectral reflection factor.

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of verifying the predicted performances of the ingredient-determined paint formula further comprises the step of representing goodness of fit with discrete value between required performances and the predicted performances of the ingredient-determined paint formula.

8. (currently amended) A method of producing paint, comprising the steps of:

using the server computer for designing the paint as claimed in claim 1; and

producing the ingredient-determined paint formula.

9. (currently amended) A method of mixing paint ingredients at a painting line side based on the determined ingredients thereby to form the ingredient-determined paint formula as claimed in claim 1.

10. (original) A method of painting an object with the produced paint as claimed in claim 8.

11. (original) A method of painting an object with the mixed paint as claimed in claim 9.

12. (original) A computer program for causing a computer to perform the method of designing paint as claimed in claim 1.

13. (original) A computer readable recording medium storing the computer program as claimed in claim 12.

14. (currently amended) A server computer, comprising:

an acquiring unit that acquires color numerical information of a designated color from a client computer connected to the server computer;

a determining unit that determines ingredients of paint based on the acquired color numerical information and paint ingredient information thereby to form an ingredient-determined paint formula;

a predicting unit that predicts performances of the ingredient-determined paint formula based on paint performance prediction information of the ingredients determined by the determining unit, the paint performance prediction information obtained through previous experience; [[and]]

a verifying unit that verifies the predicted performances of the ingredient-determined paint formula; and

an outputting unit that outputs the ingredient-determined paint formula verified by the verifying unit,

wherein at least one of painting workability, coating film performance, and paint performances is predicted as the performance of the ingredient-determined paint formula.

15. (original) The server computer as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a converting unit that converts color information corresponding to a color into the color numerical information.

16. (currently amended) The server computer as claimed in claim 14, wherein said verifying unit computes goodness of fit of the predicted performances of the ingredient-determined paint formula with reference to required performances stored in a database, and represents the goodness of fit with discrete values.